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eNews from Sen. Lisa Murkowski - Vol. 1, Issue 7 :: [Visit Senator Murkowski's Web Site](#)

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ANWR PASSES THE SENATE – ONE STEP CLOSER TO FINAL ANWR VICTORY

When the Senate passed its budget reconciliation bill last night and approved exploration in ANWR, it was a great milestone for Alaska and for the country. Responsible resource development in a small portion of ANWR is directly in line with our country's priorities. ANWR will help increase our energy security through a lessened dependence on foreign oil. It will increase our economic security through the creation of domestic revenue and new jobs. And ANWR production will help protect the global environment by ensuring that production is done here at home where we have the most stringent environmental guidelines in the world.

There are now only a few important steps before we can declare victory. The legislation will now go to conference with the House's bill and we must then pass a final bill containing the ANWR language.

While we are not home free yet, the Senate has always been the stumbling block for us in the past, and the importance of getting ANWR passed this week in the Senate is enormous.

I'm pleased for the State and for the country. I want to thank Ted Stevens, our senior Senator and my colleague, who has been an incredible partner throughout it all.

OTHER VOICES ON ANWR...

SEN. TED STEVENS

"The tide of public opinion on this issue has begun to turn because Americans know that development in the Coastal Plain will help lower energy prices, reduce our dependence on unstable and unfriendly regimes, and grow our economy. Today's vote was a step forward for our country's energy, economic, and national security."

SEN. PETE DOMENICI (R-NM)

"This is a victory for American consumers because developing our Arctic reserves will bring 10 billion barrels of oil to the lower 48 states, increasing supply and stabilizing these steep oil and gasoline prices. This vote today sends a signal to OPEC and the rest of the world that America is serious about meeting more of its own energy needs. America will not let our consumers or our economy be held hostage to runaway global oil prices."



Sen. Murkowski celebrates with Sen. Stevens and Energy Committee Chairman Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM)



Visiting with North Slope Alaskans in Washington for the ANWR vote



Answering questions at a post ANWR victory press conference

SEN. JIM TALENT (R-MO)

"Exploring for oil in the Arctic is a pro-jobs, pro-growth plan that will reduce America's dependence on unreliable foreign sources of oil. We can explore for oil in the Arctic in an environmentally-sensitive way, using the highest technologies, while creating jobs and helping reduce gas prices over the long term."

SEN. LARRY CRAIG (R-ID)

"Opening ANWR is an important, long-term step toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil. By this vote, the Senate shows that we are serious about getting the United States back in the business of producing energy."

FILLING THE VACANCY

This week also began with significance as President Bush announced Judge Samuel Alito as his nominee to fill Sandra Day O'Connor's seat on the Supreme Court. From his positions as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Assistant Solicitor General arguing cases before the Supreme Court, to his 15 years on the bench, Judge Samuel Alito has an extensive and impressive legal resume. I intend to carefully review Judge Alito's credentials and look forward to a fair confirmation process. Judge Alito's confirmation hearings are scheduled to begin on January 9.

ALASKA ON THE FRONT LINES OF AVIAN FLU

This week, President Bush announced a national initiative to prepare for a possible pandemic flu outbreak in the United States. It is important to note that there have been no cases of avian flu detected in Alaska or anywhere else in the U.S., but we should still be prepared. Information about the State of Alaska's preparedness for an influenza pandemic can be found [here](#) or visit the federal [site](#).



KEEPING UP WITH ALASKA'S TROOPS

This week, I had a brief conversation with Col. Michael Shields of the 172nd Stryker Battalion from Fort Wainwright, currently stationed in Mosul, Iraq. I told Col. Shields how proud I and all Alaskans are of the work they are doing. Col. Shields told me how well they are benefiting from the training they have done in Alaska and that the battalion is in high spirits. Col. Shields also spoke about the good work being done through the Project Partnership program in Fairbanks where businesses sponsor family readiness groups and donate items from soccer balls to cold weather clothing for the troops to hand out in Iraq. I wish the men and women of Alaska's armed forces continued safety and success in their important mission. Click [here](#) for more information.

PRESERVING VETERANS HISTORY

With Veterans Day a week away, I want to share with you an important project that is setting out to preserve the history of America's Veterans. The Veterans History Project, a project of the Library of Congress through its American Folklife Center, collects and preserves oral histories and documentary materials from those who served in the military or supported war efforts at home from World War I through the current conflict. More than 40,000 Veterans have submitted their stories and the collection includes hundreds of thousands of items from photographs, journals and letters to interviews. The majority of the collection comes from individuals. Those who are interested in participating or learning more about the project are encouraged to [e-mail](#) the office or visit the [Veterans History Project Web site](#).

WHEELCHAIR GAMES COMING TO ALASKA

I'm also excited that Anchorage will be the site of the 2006 Veteran Wheelchair Games. Organizers expect to welcome more than 600 Veteran athletes to Anchorage over July 3-8, 2006. This is the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world. Visit the [Veterans Wheelchair Games](#) for more information.

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Washington, D.C. Office 709 Hart Senate Building Washington D.C., 20510 202-224-6665
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